

PEABODY VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL 2000

PVMHS offers a solid and outstanding academic program. Academic levels include Advanced Placement courses (12 offerings) which give students college credit, rigorous and intermediate college preparatory courses, business and career studies.

The English Department offers a broad-based curriculum, which includes surveys of English and American literature. Reading programs are available for improving student skills. The Mathematics Department offers many of the traditional courses and many with computer technology. The Science Department offers a complete range of science subjects, including many upper level and advanced courses in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. The Foreign Language Department offers French, Spanish, German, Portuguese, Greek and Latin with educational exchanges to France, Spain and Germany. Special ESL (English as a Second Language) courses are offered for bilingual students. The Social Studies Department offers a full range of courses plus many electives, including 4 of the 12 AP offerings. The Business Department offers many traditional courses, along with new courses offering the latest in technology and computer use, as it prepares students for the world of work.

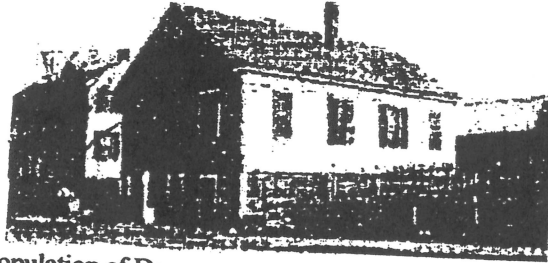
Special academic areas include: Performing Arts courses in Band, Chorus and Drama; Fine Arts offerings in Art, Photography and TV production; a full Health and Physical Education curriculum; the Air Force JROTC program; Vocational Programs in Culinary Arts, Cosmetology, Electronics, Marketing, Carpentry, Auto Repair, and Auto Body. Some of the other programs include our own School Bank, School Store and Pre-school.

PVMHS has a multitude of co-curricular clubs and programs such as The George Peabody London Exchange, Peer Leadership, Conflict Resolution and Mediation, and the International Club. We also have several academic award programs such as Student of the Month, the Science Fair, and an Annual Academic Teams Evening which seeks to recognize our academic students who have competed against other schools. Some of these "teams" include Debate, the Math team, and our drama club, Stage One.

Principal Joseph Patuleia, a class of '67 graduate, states that Peabody High is alive with dedicated, caring teachers and hardworking, appreciative students; from the opportunities, programs, and activities, to the diversity, heritage and tradition, Peabody Veterans Memorial High School provides the youth of the community with an outstanding experience.

HISTORY OF SCHOOLS

Park Street 1850-1855



In 1849, as the population of Danvers surpassed 6,000, Judge John W. Proctor led the movement to have high schools built in both the northern and southern districts of town. The idea was accepted by the school committee and then approved by a town meeting.

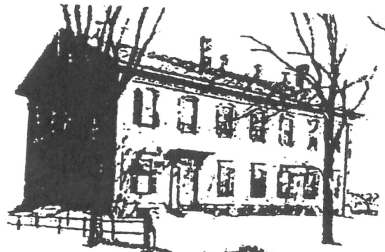
Two buildings were acquired, furnished, and named after prominent local citizens. The northern school was named in honor of Judge Samuel Holten, and the southern school after George Peabody.

Eugene Hinkley was appointed as the first teacher and was paid \$750 annually.

One June 3, potential students were tested and were required to read, write, have a knowledge of arithmetic, and to be acquainted with geography.

Thirty-eight students were selected, and school opened on June 7, in a small building on Park Street. This building was later moved to Washington Street across from Eastman Gelatine. The building is still there and until recently was used as a doctor's office.

Stevens Street 1855-1903



As the population of Danvers increased, the original high schools became inadequate to meet the expanding educational needs of the community.

In March, 1854, the town voted to build two new high schools—one in the northern part of town and one in the southern district of town. In 1855 Danvers and south Danvers became separate towns. The work on the new schools would continue. It was decided to build the new high school as part of the town hall on Stevens Street. The cost of the building was \$11,803.

During more recent time, the building has been occupied by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

Central Street 1903-1966



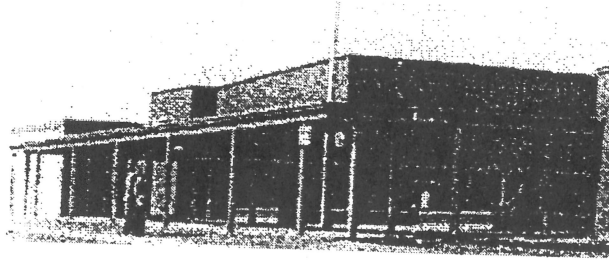
The third high school was built in 1903. The property was the former Miles Osborn estate. On October 9, 1856, when George Peabody returned home, he was honored by a large parade that extended from Danvers into Peabody. The procession rested at the Osborn estate while Mr. Peabody and friends were entertained at lunch by the Osborn family.

A movement for building a new school started in 1899 as the Stevens Street school became overcrowded. On June 20, 1902, a special committee supported the idea, as did a town meeting. The sum of \$95,000 was appropriated for the new high school, and the Osborn Estate was purchased.

The architect was Edwin B. Balcomb. The school was 3 stories high, and it had a basement. The school was 136' long by 80' wide and was 75' from the street. It contained 25 classrooms and a hall. Student capacity was 500. As the school neared completion, an additional \$10,000 was appropriated. The school was opened to public inspection on September 1.

In 1920 the school was expanded to meet the ever-growing needs of the community. The final phase of the building was completed for under \$1,000,000. The school was equipped with the "most modern heating and ventilation" available at that time. It would serve as a high school until 1966. Later it would serve as a junior high school, which was named after legendary football coach Bill Seeglitz. In recent years it has become an apartment building for senior citizens.

King Street Extention 1966-1971



During the late 1950's and into the 1960's the population of Peabody dramatically increased. As West Peabody boomed with new housing construction, the school system was faced with the difficult task of finding classrooms.

In 1964 the school committee began the process of a new high school to be built on land owned by Eastman Gelatine on Allen's Lane. The architect was Rich, Phinney, Lang, and Cote of Boston. The general contractor was J. T. Scully Construction of Boston. The building had an area of 238,000 square feet. The school contained 78 classrooms with an attached Vocational High School containing 8 classrooms and 5 related shop areas. The cost was \$5.2 million.

When the school opened in 1966, Peabody High School became a 3-year school with the junior high school system implemented. The new high school was organized in a House Plan or a school-within-a-school. In this system the school was subdivided into areas known as houses. Each house was administered by a House Master or Unit Director. Ideally the student would stay in a particular house for all classes. The cafeteria, auditorium, and gym would be a common area for all houses.

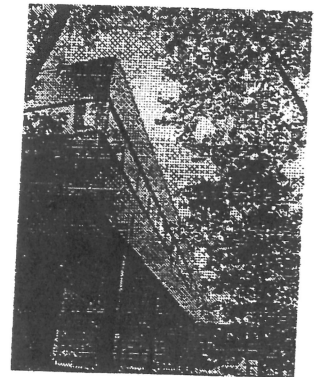
Lowell Street 1971 to Present

The building boom in Peabody continued into the early 1970's. As the population of the city almost doubled in less than twenty years, the Peabody High school was inadequate almost before it opened.

The Lowell Street school was built between 1970 and 1971. The architect was Arthur J. Flansburg Associates. Costing \$12.6 million, the school contained many educationally unique advancements. Within the school were a TV studio, photography lab, and a planetarium. As was the case with the King Street school, the Lowell Street school was made with a house system.

The athletic complex at the school contains a football field, soccer/lacrosse field, and a baseball diamond.

The school was named Veterans Memorial High School in honor of Peabody's military contribution to the country. Each section of the building was named in honor of an individual veteran or a specific military event.



PRINCIPALS OF PEABODY HIGH SCHOOL

Eugene B. Hinckley	1850-1855
J. W. Colcord	1855-1857
L. R. Cushman	1857-1859
Robert E. Babson	1859-1860
V. H. Deane	1860 –
William L. Thompson	1860-1862
Albert C. Perkins	1862-1863
Isaac N. Carleton	1863-1864
Henry Dame	1864-1869
Byron Groce	1869-1874
James N. Ham	1874-1883
J. Y. Bergen, Jr.	1883-1888
Charles A. Holbrook	1888-1894
John M. Nichols	1894-1900
Willard W. Woodman	1900-1934
Arthur J. Barry	1934-1968
William A. Welch, Jr.	1968-1983
Charles McCarthy	1983-1989
Joan Carr	1989-1997
Elaine A. Espindle	1997 (Interim)
Joseph Patuleia	1997-Present

GEORGE PEABODY: FOUNDER OF THE PEABODY INSTITUTE



George Peabody was born in what today is Peabody, Massachusetts in February 1795. With only four years of formal education and no family connections, he achieved enormous international success as an investment banker in London. He is considered by many to be the founder of modern philanthropy.

While serving in the War of 1812, Peabody met Elisha Riggs of Baltimore. In 1814, Riggs supplied financial backing to found the wholesale dry goods firm of Peabody, Riggs, and Company. In 1816, Peabody moved to Baltimore and took offices in Old Congress Hall on Baltimore. The Baltimore business soon established branches in Philadelphia and New York. Seeking still wider business opportunities, George Peabody traveled to England in 1827. In 1837, he took up residence in London.

In 1851, Britain staged *The Great Exhibition of the World of Industry of All Nations* in London. The event took place in a new exhibition hall, the "Crystal Palace." President Fillmore provided transportation for American goods to the Exhibition, but Congress, refused funds for U.S. participation in this "speculative venture." The American exhibits languished in their crates while the British press heaped scorn on the former colony. Peabody recognized the importance of his country's taking part and put up \$15,000 of his own funds to install the American exhibits. His investment paid off handsomely, as immense crowds flocked to see Colt's revolver, Cyrus McCormick's reaping machine, fine daguerreotypes, and other wonders.

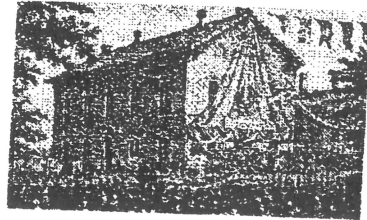
During this period, British society was reeling under the impact of industrialization and uncontrolled urban growth, with the homeless and destitute increasing at an appalling rate. The problems plaguing England spurred the adoption of the Poor Laws and gave rise to a host of charitable causes. George Peabody shared their concerns.

Peabody's philanthropic activities began after the Great Exhibition. All of them were aimed towards improving society, and particularly at providing the less fortunate with the means to improve themselves. Unlike many philanthropists of the period, Peabody's activities were not intended to promote religious beliefs; in fact, he clearly stated that his institutions were not to be used to nurture sectarian theology or political dissention.

In London, Peabody established the Peabody Donation Fund, which continues to this day to provide subsidized housing to the working class in London. In America, Peabody founded and supported numerous institutions in New England and elsewhere. At the close of the Civil War, he established the Peabody Education Fund to "encourage the intellectual, moral, and industrial education of the destitute children of the Southern States."

George Peabody is known to have provided benefactions of more than \$8 million, most of them in his own lifetime. Among the list are included:

1852 The Peabody Institute, Peabody, Mass: \$217,000
1856 The Peabody Institute, Danvers, Mass: \$100,000
1857 The Peabody Institute, Baltimore: \$1,400,000
1862 The Peabody Donation Fund, London: \$2,500,000
1866 The Peabody Museum, Harvard: \$150,000
1867 The Peabody Museum, Salem, Mass: \$140,000
1867 Peabody Education Fund: \$2,000,000



George Peabody died in London on November 4, 1869. At the request of the Dean of Westminster and with the approval of the Queen, Peabody was given a temporary burial in Westminster Abbey. His will provided that he be buried in the town of his birth, and Prime Minister Gladstone arranged for Peabody's remains to be returned to America on the *Monarch*.

Peabody was honored on both sides of the Atlantic for his generosity. He was one of only two Americans ever to have been awarded the "Freedom of the City of London" (the other was General Dwight D. Eisenhower.) A statue to George Peabody still stands in the heart of London's financial district. In the United States, he was awarded the Congressional Medal in 1867.

Primary Source: Elizabeth Schaaf, Archivist of the Peabody Institute

**"Education—a debt due from present to future generations."
--George Peabody**

The City of Peabody was named after George Peabody, America's first great philanthropist, in 1868. Previous to that time it was known as the town of South Danvers, and originally as the village of Brooksby when it was settled as part of Salem in 1626.

In 1849 the population of Peabody and Danvers combined was a little over 6,000. Early that year the school committee established two high schools for what are now Peabody and Danvers. The high school in Peabody was named after George Peabody. The first teacher and principal was Eugene B. Hinckley, a native of Brunswick, Maine, who had just graduated from Bowdoin College. It seems incredible today, but he had to teach all the various branches of study every day, with no assistance. Each day was made up of two sessions, nine to twelve in the morning, and 1:30 to 4:30 in the afternoon. Even the experiments in chemistry and

physics were performed in the presence of the whole school, and the younger pupils learned from hearing the older scholars recite on their advanced subjects. The pupils also had to attend school on Saturday mornings, when the whole school had a reading lesson.

In 1854 the high schools of Peabody and Danvers met together for the first time at the South Church in Peabody. The occasion was the announcement of the gift of George Peabody to the two schools, by which the worthiest students would receive medals at graduation. Peabody was so honored by the high school being named after him that he provided funds for awards to the students. In 1854 there were about 45 students in total at the high school.

George Peabody gave the high schools the task of choosing the recipients and administering the awards. Seventeen students received the George Peabody medals in 1854. When he decided to establish a permanent fund, however, it was the Trustees of the Peabody Institute who were given the responsibility to invest and manage the monies prudently. The interest generated by the Peabody High School Medal Fund has been used to purchase the merit medals awarded annually from 1867 to the present. The George Peabody medals are still awarded to the students ranked academically as the top eight in the graduating class.

In the continuing spirit of affirming the values espoused by George Peabody, the Peabody Veterans Memorial High School established in 1990 a student exchange program with the Peabody Trust of London, England. The exchange program has enabled a number of our students to visit London and see first hand the workings and mission of the Peabody Trust in its efforts to provide both affordable housing and outreach services to an ever-increasing number of people in need.

The exchange further provides British students to visit Peabody, Massachusetts, and the metropolitan Boston area. The London students experience a bit of "Americana" as well as to appreciate the area for which George Peabody gave of himself to promote better opportunities for many people. The program continues to provide an improvement of our understandings of the two cultures and a growing appreciation of the legacy of George Peabody. This exchange further affirms the value of mankind reaching out to help each other to live better lives.

ATHLETICS

Peabody High School Alumni can be proud of their history and rich tradition in athletics. Peabody High Athletics over the years have fielded competitive teams with many champions.

In the second decade of the twentieth century our baseball team established a string of seven championships (1910, '12, '13, '15, '16, '17, '18). Another prominent team from that era was represented by our football squads who did very well in the Roaring Twenties with seven great seasons of championships. (1916, '17, '19, '21, '23, '26, '27)

Girls' sports had a team in the '30s, which established a great run. Our basketball squads did very well in that decade with seven championship seasons. (1931, '32, '33, '34, '35, '36, '37).

The early years, up to and including the World War II era, produced state champions at Peabody High School. Football was state Colonial and National Champion in 1916, 1921, 1938, 1940, and 1944. Our golf team was a national champion in 1935, and the young women of our great basketball team were New England Champs in 1941. The decades of the '50s and the '60s provided many great teams, but it wasn't until the 1970s, with the advent of girls' athletics as we know it today, that we saw dominant runs by our teams.

Peabody Football provided 4 championship teams in the '70s (1971, '72, '74, '76). The '80s came, and we saw our dominance once again. Some of the more prominent championship programs emerged in the '80s such as:

Golf (1980, '81, '87, '88, '89)

Girls' Cross Country (1980, '81, '82, '83, '84, '85, '86, '87, '89)

Girls' Out Door Track (1980, '81, '82, '83, '84, '88, '89)

Girls' Indoor Track (1980-'84, '87-'89)

Girls' Basketball (1980, '81, '82, '83, '84, '85, '86, '87), and

Boys' Indoor Track (1980-'84, '88, '89).

The recently concluded millennium ended with a decade again hallmarked Peabody Teams. The teams of this decade with impressive runs of championship success were:

Baseball (1990, '95, '96, '98, '99)

Golf (1990, '91, '92, '94, '95, '98)

Gymnastics (1990-'96)

Football (1990, '93, '94, '95, '99)

Girls' Basketball (1991, '93, '94, '96, '97)

Girls' Cross Country (1990, '92, '95, '96, '98)

Girls' Out Door Track (1990-'94, '97, '98, '99), and

Girls' Indoor Track (1990-'95)

As we move into the next millennium, the Alumni of Peabody High School and of their athletic teams can be proud of their school and its facilities. In 1997 we dedicated a new field house playing surface, and in 1999 we provided a new set of bleachers with a state of the art press box at our football stadium. Peabody High School athletics are moving forward in the year 2000, and we continue to aim high and continue our great success.